

Michiana Gem & Mineral Society  
Jason Hefner, Editor  
229 East State St  
Etna Green, IN 46524



January 2013 Volume 53 Number 1



Forget "Think Spring"...Think Summer



THE  
ROCKFINDER

**We're on the Web! See us at: <http://www.sauktown.com/Michiana>**

The purpose of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society is to promote the study and enjoyment of the earth sciences and the lapidary arts, and to share lapidary knowledge and techniques. General meetings are usually held the fourth Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at,

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church  
805 S. 29th St.,  
South Bend, IN.  
Please see the map to the right.

Doors usually open at 1:30 for meet & greet time.

Regular meeting exceptions include May (third Sunday), July (Club Picnic), August (Club Show) and the November/December meeting and Christmas party.

Board meetings are held before the monthly meetings. The annual club show is in late August.



**DUES**

Yearly Membership Dues are payable by December 15th of each year. Please chose type of membership below.

- Individual \$15.00     Family \$20.00
- Junior \$1.00         Subscriber \$7.50

Please indicate areas of special interest.

- General Geology     Gems & Minerals
- Fossils               Micro mounts
- Crystals             Field Trips
- Cabochons          Faceting
- Carving             Beads
- Jewelry Making

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City, ST, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your dues and the bottom half of this form to:



Please read and sign this section

With my signature I hereby release the Michiana Gem and Mineral Society, Inc., and its individual members and the owners of any premises upon which I enter under permit granted to the society, absolutely free of any liability whatsoever, to my person or property, and further I will respect the equipment and property of the aforesaid owners.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Family Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

Michiana Gem & Mineral Society  
c/o Marty Perry  
29154 Frailey Dr  
Elkhart, IN 46514

The purpose of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society is to promote the study and enjoyment of the earth sciences and the lapidary arts, and to share lapidary knowledge and techniques.

Michiana Gem and Mineral Society  
([www.sauktown.com/Michiana](http://www.sauktown.com/Michiana)), is a not-for-profit organization affiliated with the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
<http://www.amfed.org/mwf/> and with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
[www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)

The *Rockfinder* is published monthly except July and August.

Please note that all items for a given issue of the *Rockfinder* are due to the **Editor** no later than the **5<sup>th</sup>** day of the previous month. This means that the due date for the March Issue will be February 5th. Advance items are appreciated. Material may be e-mailed to [hefner\\_family@hotmail.com](mailto:hefner_family@hotmail.com) or submitted via the U.S. Mail.

Editor:  
Jason Hefner  
229 East State St  
Etna Green, IN 46524

Permission is hereby granted to reprint any original *Rockfinder* articles as long as recognition is given along with the reprint.

REMEMBER – Items in The Rockfinder that are **BLUE & UNDERLINED** are links to the internet or email addresses. Just click on them for more information.



## Kathy's Column - President Kathy Miller

My goodness, only one more day of 2012. But what great expectations for 2013. At our January meeting, I and the Board hope to have some very exciting calendar days for you to look forward to.

This past year we enlarged our membership, had more attendance at meetings, a good turnout for our annual picnic and Christmas party. We put on an excellent show and thanks to Chairman John Davis, field trips to participate in, plus a 3 day bus field trip.

Wow, I have a feeling 2013 is going to be just as good or better! This year's show is our 50th to share with the public, what a time to shine!

Our Board and Committee Chairs are set for 2013, some will probably be calling on you for your assistance in their field to keep our club/hobby going and growing. You will find their names and appointments listed in *The Rockfinder*.

[Continued on Page 2](#)

## Up & Coming

**Next Meeting: January 27, 2013**

Visitors are always welcome.

Doors open at 1:30 and the meeting starts at 2:00.

**Place:**

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church  
805 S 29<sup>th</sup> Street  
(29<sup>th</sup> & Wall)

South Bend, IN.

This is in the River Park area.

**Refreshments:**

Something great!!

**Program:**

Helping prepare for  
Science Alive

**Dues are due**

## Board of Directors

President:

Kathy Miller  
574-291-0332

Vice-President:

Randy Hill  
269-465-5814

Secretary:

Michelle Winters  
574-267-6127

Treasurer:

Marty Perry  
574-295-9050

Liaison:

Linda Garwood  
765-592-3409

Past President:

Diane Gram  
574-272-6885

## Committee Chairs

Displays: Mike Skoczylas  
574-251-0255

Editor: Jason Hefner  
574-858-9837

Educational: Jesse Zeiger  
574-259-5944

Field Trips: John Davis  
574-232-8823

Historian: Ed Miller  
574-498-6513

Hospitality:  
Linda Miller 574-291-5027  
Carrie Brown 574-266-0150

Juniors: Trista McIntosh  
574-780-1162

Librarian: Pat Bell  
574-233-7352

Membership: Joan Hill  
269-465-5814

Programs: Rev Larry Calhoun  
574-631-1887

Publicity: Joe Perry  
574-295-9050

Show Chair: Marie Crull  
574-272-7209

Sunshine: Annette Freel 574-  
293-8193, Sherrie Kobie 574-  
522-0189

Webmaster: Jim Daly  
219-778-2196

## Kathy's Column..... continued from Page 1

Speaking of Committee Chairs, we're glad to hear Bill Crull (Show Committee) is back home from the Burn Unit in Fort Wayne, IN, and is recuperating here in South Bend, soon to go home.

This year when you come to a meeting, why not bring a friend(s) or relative(s). It is surprising how many people do not know the difference between a rock, stone, pebble, cement, granite, etc. It's funny, but a little sad since the earth sciences or geology is such a big part of our everyday lives. So in a manner of speaking we are teachers for our hobby.

The body of the club, meaning ALL of you, are the friendliest, most outgoing folks I have ever been around. I feel this is why we have generated our enlarged membership. You are all real "people persons". Thank you for what you do for our club and hobby.

Let's all "Rock On" and look forward to 2013 and the camaraderie among friends.

Kathy

P.S. Oops – I should mention, have you paid your dues? Dues are due!!!

## Rock on, Kathy

UPDATE – by the time you see this Bill Crull will be home!!!!



Florida beach coming finds. From left to right: Parrot fish mouth parts, assorted sharks teeth, sting ray plates, and a dolphin tooth. Collected 2012 by J. Hefner

## Protecting our collecting sites. Continued from page 5

My wife and I were going to collect geodes many years ago in Keokuk. After asking around, we located a landowner who had a creek. The owner told us to go ahead but don't dig up the bank. He was concerned with erosion. We didn't! At the next club meeting, we mentioned Keokuk and this creek and were warned by a club member that it was off limits to collecting. They were told to leave and threatened with trespass. They had not asked permission.

Here in Minnesota, our claim to fame is the Lake Superior Agate. The best collecting is not in gravel pits where liability is king. It is the farmer's field next to the gravel pit. Right after plowing! A good share of the farmers will let you walk on their land if you ask permission. "Collect rocks? Why not take them all" was one remark I heard.

The key to gaining access to collecting sites relies on the generosity of the landowner. I always liked the AFMS Code of Ethics. The Code's number one rule is to get permission. If I would have talked first to the club member, there would have been no geodes. Don't assume anything. Find out who owns the land and ask permission. Equally important, say thank you! Let the landowner know how much fun you had and how you appreciate his or her generosity of allowing you to collect. If you don't thank them in person, call or send a thank you card. How about a piece of jewelry you made.

It is very simple. If you want to collect, ask permission. If you want to collect again, say thank you.

## "Laws" of Collecting - Or, Murphy's Law of Minerals

Written by: Wendell Wilson

Everyone knows Murphy's Law..."If anything can go wrong it will." I offer here a few observations relative to collecting.

1. Specimens become more expensive faster than you become more affluent.
2. A specimen being trimmed tends to break through the largest crystal.
3. Untrained observers always wish to touch the most fragile specimen.
4. The one specimen you like best in a collection is the one with the owner is least inclined to part with.
5. Every specimen is dinged; the dings are just smaller on some.
6. In the field, the best crystals are always found on the largest, hardest rock.
7. In the field, the greatest discoveries are always made the day before you arrive, or the day after you leave.
8. During hard times, mineral dealers keep alive by selling to each other.

Continued next page

## "Laws" of Collecting - Or, Murphy's Law of Minerals

9. The best specimens on a dealer's mailing list will already be sold by the time you receive the list.

10. Specimens and money tend to repel each other.

Corollary #1. The specimen you have been waiting years to buy becomes available when you have the least money.

Corollary #2. When you have extra money to spend on specimens, nothing worthwhile will be available.

Corollary #3. Specimens of a given type will stop appreciating, and will begin to depreciate, as soon as you buy one.

Corollary #4. When you wish to sell a specimen, no one will have the money available to buy it from you.

11. If you immediately buy a specimen from a new discovery, better ones will shortly be found and sold for less. If you delay in buying, no more will ever be found, and prices will immediately rise drastically.

12. If you wish to sell a specimen, no one wants it. If you wish to keep it, everyone wants it.

Corollary #1. If you buy a specimen from a dealer he will continue to tell you how marvelous it is until the moment you offer to sell it back to him.

13. A repaired specimen is worth less only when owned by someone else.

14. Mineral localities remain open as long as mineral collectors do not visit them.

15. A specimen which you are contemplating buying will remain unsold until JUST BEFORE you decide to buy it (regardless of how long you delay), at which time it will be bought by someone else.

Originally published in The Mineralogical Record Volume 10, Number four, July-August 1979 collected from the internet 01/03/13 <http://www.the-vug.com/vug/humormurphyslaw.html>



public domain photo

## American Federation of Mineralogical Societies News Endowment Fund Drawing News

by R.J. Harris,

AFMS Chair

I would like to take a moment and thank Pam Hecht for the wonderful job she did as Endowment Fund Chair. Pam has left big shoes to fill. Frankly, I am starting from scratch.

I would like to begin with an appeal for donations. From specimens to incredible lapidary creations, we are used to seeing prized offerings in our drawing every year. I will also be reaching out to equipment manufacturers over the next few weeks to see if we can line up an exciting variety of goodies like Pam did this past year. Any contacts that you have to offer would also be appreciated.

We'll continue to sell tickets as we've done in the past at \$5 each or 5 for \$20 with all proceeds going towards the principal of the AFMS Endowment Fund. Interest earned by the principal is used to fund programs that benefit you and your club members --- programs for your regional program library, and badges for junior rockhounds that are provided to your juniors at no charge to your club, to highlight just two.

Continued on Page 8

## Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: PROTECTING OUR COLLECTING SITES

by Dennis Westman

Winter is here and for us in the ice bowl of northern states, collecting has been reduced to daydreams. This is tough because the biggest pleasure of our hobby is collecting. I guess daydreaming makes me reflect on how challenging it is to access collecting areas. There are obstacles way beyond our control, like liability, OSHA rules, and corporate policies. Fortunately there is an opposite side to obstacles.

A friend was agate collecting in Montana with a rockhound buddy. They started collecting agates on the newly graveled roads. A local rancher stopped his 4WD pickup and asked if they were having any luck. "Not much" was the answer! The rancher had a creek running through his property and he invited the rockhounds to try their luck. "Yes, Yes, Yes!" This untouched creek was filled with moss agates. After collecting all day, they drove up to the ranch house. They thanked the rancher and wanted him to know they were leaving his property. The rancher had not asked them to stop by when they were done collecting. Finally my friend dragged out one pail of nice agates to show the rancher what they found. They received an invitation to collect the ranch again. My friend got the rancher's phone number so he could call and make sure collecting was still okay. They would check in at the ranch house before entering the ranchers land.

Continued on Page 3



### Purpose of the AFMS

To promote popular interest and education in the various Earth Sciences, and in particular the subjects of Geology, Mineralogy, Paleontology, Lapidary and other related subjects, and to sponsor and provide means of coordinating the work and efforts of all persons and groups interested therein; to sponsor and encourage the formation and international development of Societies and Regional Federations and by and through such means to strive toward greater international good will and fellowship.

[www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)



### Purpose of the MWF

To promote interest and education in geology, mineralogy, paleontology, archaeology and lapidary, and to sponsor and provide means of coordinating the work and efforts of groups interested in these fields.

[www.amfed.org/mwfw](http://www.amfed.org/mwfw)

**DECEMBER**

*If you don't see your event here, it was not timely submitted in a legible format.*

**JANUARY 2013**

**26: LINCOLN, NE.** Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.'s Annual Mid-winter Swap; Bethany Park Shelter House, Cotner Blvd. & Vine St.; Sat. 1-5; CONTACT: Richard Peterson, Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, P.O. Box 5342, Lincoln, NE 68505, 402.489.2996, [padr20@yahoo.com](mailto:padr20@yahoo.com), [www.lincolngemmineralclub.org](http://www.lincolngemmineralclub.org).

**FEBRUARY**

**10: LINCOLN, NE.** Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.'s Geology Day; Pioneer Park, Prairie Life Center, Coddington & West A; Sun. 1-4; CONTACT: Karen Messenger, Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, P.O. Box 5342, Lincoln, NE 68505, 402.946.2281, [kamessenger@hotmail.com](mailto:kamessenger@hotmail.com), [www.lincolngemmineralclub.org](http://www.lincolngemmineralclub.org).

**23-24: ROSEVILLE, MN.** Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club's Winter Show; Har Mar Mall, 2100 Snelling; Sat. 10-6, Sun. Noon-5; CONTACT: Martha Miss, 651.459.0343, [info@rock-biz.biz](mailto:info@rock-biz.biz).

**Dues are stil due**

# Do Elected Representatives Read Our Emails? Yes!

By John Martin, ALAA

Writing to elected officials does get some response and lets them know that we are out there and that we care. If more people write, maybe our feelings and ideas will get across. I emailed California Congressman Kevin McCarthy about proposed legislation S2921.

An excerpt from my email: As a constituent, I treasure the public lands in the California desert and want to see them remain open and accessible by all of America's recreationalists and not just special interests and hikers. I want these special public lands to remain open and accessible for my family and future generations. I urge you to NOT support the California Desert Protection Act of 2010 as it is currently written. . . . Visitors spend more than \$230 million annually on outdoor recreation in the California desert, according to federal data, and this bill will reduce this amount of local revenue by closing off more public lands to ALL forms of public recreation on these now open public lands. . . .

From Congressman McCarthy's response: Dear John: While I support protecting our natural resources for future generations to enjoy, in the state of California we already have millions of acres of federally managed and protected land. This is why I am wary of designating additional federal lands in our state which, depending on the type of designation, can restrict public access, enjoyment, and recreation on these lands. As your Representative in Congress, I will keep your comments in mind should this legislation be voted on in the House. Sincerely, Kevin McCarthy, Member of Congress.

--Excerpted from the Oct. to Dec., 2010, ALAA Newsletter

ALAA is the lobbying arm of the American Federation, working on behalf of rockhounds to keep public lands open and accessible to all, including the elderly and handicapped.  
Barite Rose

Barite Rose



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## MWF Mineral Study Group (Blue Minerals)

by Kreigh Tomaszewski

The last few months the West Michigan MidWest Federation Mineral Study Group has been looking at minerals that "glow" in various ways (it was radioactives last month). This month we started a new sequence of looking at minerals by color. Color is not always a reliable key for mineral identification, but it is useful enough that some field guides use it as their primary key.

Our Mineral Study Group likes to learn about the science and practical uses of the minerals we study, but we also want to learn to hand identify them. Hand identification is a skill you learn from holding and studying many different specimens of a given mineral. We do our homework on the science and come prepared to discuss the mineral of the month, but we also dig through our collections and come with one or more specimens for everyone to handle. We really do learn from each other.

The concept behind our color sequence is to have as many different minerals of a given color, to examine together, so we can learn to distinguish between them. We want to work thru the colors of the rainbow; blue got picked for this month because it was the first color mentioned.

Our group came up with a lot of blue minerals of various shades, and some of them were really pretty specimens. We had Lazulite, Benitoite, Microcline (blue Amazonite), Azurite, Lemanskiite, Topaz, Fluorite (including 'Blue John'), Indicolite, Linarite, Cornetite, Cavansite, Chalcantite, Aurichalcite, Turquoise (massive and crystalline), Chrysocolla, Hemimorphite, Smithsonite, Blue Quartz (Llanite), Blue Agate, Blue Chert, Kyanite, Covelite, Sodalite, Dumortierite, Labradorite, Blue Chalcedony, Pretulite, Diaboleite, Serpentine, Grandviewite, Chalcoalumite, Blue Tiger Eye, and Halloysite. There were several more that I failed to remember. And we had more than one specimen for most of the minerals (I hope I spelled them all right).

It is one thing to look at the pictures in the field books, but you get a much deeper appreciation when you can hold the specimen and look at it thru a lens. And then look at another specimen of the same mineral (and then another). And then look at something else that is close but different. And the group did their homework, so we had lots of fun facts to share about the minerals we looked at. It was a good meeting.

The next meeting of the West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group will be held on Tuesday, February 12, 2013, from 7pm to 8:30 pm, at the home of Kreigh Tomaszewski, 653 Burton St. S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49507. We are going to study red (and pink) minerals since it will be close to Valentine's Day. This will be our second study sequence based on the colors of the rainbow (Roy G Biv).

We try to start (and end) on time (we often finish a little early); please do not arrive more than 20 minutes early (everyone gets thrown out by 9). All West Michigan rockhounds are invited to attend. Please look up a few facts about red minerals, and bring some red mineral specimens from your collection. I hope you can join us as we learn about minerals from each other (look up some facts even if you can't bring any specimens).

We usually have some time at the end to look at an unrelated unknown you might need help on (no promises of a positive ID, but we are getting better at identifying minerals).

## Endowment Fund

from Page 5

Confirmed Regional Federation Chairs Salespersons as of November 5, 2012:

California Federation: Colleen McGann PO Box 224; Santa Clara, CA 95052

[Colleen.mcgann@hds.com](mailto:Colleen.mcgann@hds.com)

Eastern Federation: Carolyn Weinberger PO Box 302; Glyndon, MD 21071-0302

[editor@amfed.org](mailto:editor@amfed.org)

Northwest Federation: Chris Blickfeldt 236 Tollgate Rd; Boise, ID 82716 3515

[grumpies@g.com](mailto:grumpies@g.com)

Rocky Mountain Federation: Richard Jaeger# 88th St; Tulsa, OK 74137-2602  
RjgrSci@aol.com

I've still not confirmed sellers for the Midwest, South Central or Southeast Federations.

**If you're interested in volunteering, please contact me.**

In the February newsletter I will show off some of the items up for grabs and provide a complete list of the confirmed sellers in each region. Enjoy your holiday season and think of the AFMS for a nice donation to our drawing, September will be here before you know it.

**Volume 66, Number 2 – December, 2012 -January, 2013**  
[http://www.amfed.org/news/n2012\\_12.pdf](http://www.amfed.org/news/n2012_12.pdf)

RJ Harris's email is  
[roqfreq@rjharris.com](mailto:roqfreq@rjharris.com)

## Midwest Federation Youth Poster Contest: Fossils of the World

by Jim Brace-Thompson, Junior Activities Chair

For the past few years, the Summit Lapidary Club of Ohio has been sponsoring a poster contest for kids in conjunction with their annual show and the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies convention. The contest is open to any kids within an AFMS-affiliated club, especially those who already may be involved in the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America program. David Rich has emailed to let me know the tradition continues, and this year, the contest is focused around a theme of "Fossils of the World." Kids wishing to enter the contest should prepare a poster illustrating one or more fossils that interest them, from anywhere in the world.

The contest is open to kids in grades 1 through 8. Each grade level will have a winner. Ribbons will be awarded for 1st through 4th place, and 1st place winners will also receive a prize. Rules are as follows:

- all entries must be presented on 12 x 18-inch paper;
- artwork can be pen, ink, crayons, magic marker, paint, or any other artist's medium, but no three-dimensional posters accepted;
- include name, address, age and school grade of participant on back of entry;
- the title maybe on front or back;
- list of names of the fossils and why you chose them; and
- all entries become the property of Summit Lapidary Club and the Midwest Federation.

Points will be awarded as follows: Originality & Art Work—30 points; Design—25 points; Title—25 points; Listing of Fossils and Reason You Chose Them—20 points.

**Entries must be postmarked by March 2, 2013.**

and should be mailed to: Jennifer Fike, P.O. Box 26276, Akron, Ohio 44319. Winners to be announced April 6, 2013, at the MWF convention. Further contest info may be found at <http://www.Lapidaryclubofohio.org> , and if you have questions, contact Poster Judge Jennifer Fike by email at: <SLC. [youth.poster.contest@gmail.com](mailto:youth.poster.contest@gmail.com).

**Volume 66, Number 2 – December, 2012 -January, 2013**  
[http://www.amfed.org/news/n2012\\_12.pdf](http://www.amfed.org/news/n2012_12.pdf)